

Frequently Asked Questions

About the Secretary of State and the Electoral College

1. Is the Secretary of State a member of the Electoral College?

No. The Secretary of State only serves as the host of the Electoral College. In other words, her responsibilities include administrative tasks such as reserving the room in the State Capital where the Electoral College meets.

2. Can the Secretary of State tell electors how to vote or influence how they vote?

No. The Secretary of State serves as the host of the Electoral College but not as a member of the Electoral College. North Carolina law includes a provision about how the electors are to vote. See Article 18 of Chapter 163 of the North Carolina General Statutes for more information:

http://www.ncleg.net/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/PDF/ByArticle/Chapter_163/Article_18.pdf

About the Electoral College

1. How is the Electoral College selected?

The materials at the National Archives website are a good resource for the answer to this question: <https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college>. You may also want to review Article 18 of Chapter 163 of the North Carolina General Statutes:

http://www.ncleg.net/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/PDF/ByArticle/Chapter_163/Article_18.pdf

2. Can members of the public attend the meeting of the Electoral College?

Yes. The meeting of the Electoral College is public. However, you should be aware that North Carolina law requires that the Electoral College meet in “in the old Hall of the House of Representatives in the State Capitol in the City of Raleigh”. That is a small room. We are unable to accommodate members of the public in that room. In recognition of the public’s interest in the Electoral College, we have made arrangements for members of the public to view the meeting in other ways that include:

- The meeting of the Electoral College will be live-streamed on the Secretary of State’s website.
- We have been informed that UNC-TV will be carrying the meeting of the Electoral College live.
- In years past, the live-stream has also been carried by networks such as C-Span. If we learn of any other media outlets that will live-stream the meeting of the Electoral College, we will update these FAQs.
- We are working on offering an additional space in which the meeting of the Electoral College will be live-streamed so that members of the public can view it. If additional viewing space becomes available, we will update these FAQs.